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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/078,826	02/19/2002	Patrick Jay Allen	8613M	6590

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

STEPHENS, JACQUELINE F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3761	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/078,826	ALLEN ET AL.
	Examiner Jacqueline F Stephens	Art Unit 3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2004 and 03 December 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7, 16, 18-20 and 90 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 9/23/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues DePonte does not disclose the present invention as recited in amended claims 1, 10, and 19 in that DePonte discloses its alarm is activated by the detection of a body temperature at or above a predetermined activating temperature even in a dry condition. While DePonte discloses an *optional* feature includes a sensor capable of sensing and monitoring high temperatures, DePonte also discloses as his invention a monitoring system that is activated by the presence of a quantity of liquid containing an electrolyte which conducts current between the electrodes, a source of the liquid being urine. The 'comprising' language used in the independent claims is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional unrecited elements, compositional components, or steps. The sensor monitoring high temperatures in a dry condition is an additional optional element and not necessary for the function of the primary monitoring system.

In response to applicant's argument that the invention of DePonte is not disposable, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. The article of DePonte

is capable of being discarded after one use or several uses. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

2. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Murphy is relied for the teaching of plasticizers. The plasticizer of Murphy is provides a skin-conditioning benefit. Firstly, it is old and well known in the art that pharmaceuticals providing skin-conditioning benefits are widely used in diaper, bed pads, and incontinent garments and are generally topically applied to the absorbent article in manufacture. Secondly, the motivation for combining the references is to provide the absorbent article of DePonte with a compound that would treat or prevent skin disorders, which can readily occur with a bedridden patient.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 19-20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DePonte USPN 5291181.

As to claim 1-3, 5, 7,10, 13, 14, and 19, DePonte discloses a wearable article (Figure 8) comprising a fever indicator (col. 3, lines 5-9) and provides a visible, audible, or tactile signal (col. 3,lines 37-38) when a wearer's body temperature is above a predetermined threshold temperature (col. 3, lines 42-45 and col. 6, lines 39-41), the fever indicatory determining the wearer's body temperature from urine expelled from the wearer's body (col. 5, lines 46-49 and col. 6, lines 23-30). DePonte discloses an outer cover , absorbent middle layer, and liquid permeable top layer (col. 5, lines 24-57), and the article is capable of being discarded after one use, thus the article is considered disposable as broadly as claimed. DePonte discloses the pad is removable, which indicates it can be incorporated into an article. DePonte discloses the monitoring system is activated by the presence of a quantity of liquid containing an electrolyte which conducts current between the electrodes, a source of the liquid being urine. Although DePonte additionally discloses an *optional* feature, which includes a sensor

capable of sensing and monitoring high temperatures, the sensor monitoring high temperatures in a dry condition is an additional optional element and not necessary for the function of the primary monitoring system. The 'comprising' language used in the independent claims is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional unrecited elements, compositional components, or steps.

As to claims 4, 15, and 20, see col. 6, lines 24-26.

As to claims 6 and 16, see col. 5, lines 6-35.

As to claims 11 and 12, DePonte discloses the sensor is located adjacent the topsheet and in some embodiments in a pocket, so that it is removable from the topsheet (col. 5, lines 24-57).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DePonte in view of Murphy USPN 6541517. DePonte discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, DePonte does not disclose the use of plasticizers. Murphy discloses the use of plasticizers for the benefit of an anti-fungal property (Murphy col. 4, lines 46). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a plasticizer in the invention of DePonte for the benefits disclosed in Murphy.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

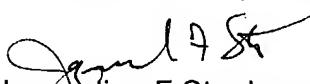
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline F Stephens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Schwartz can be reached on (571)272-4390. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jacqueline F Stephens
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

December 11, 2004